

32786 / P

Frontispiece.



1. A Raven builds in the Stone Iyon's Mouth —
2. An Eagle sits on the Bow-Window South —
3. The Three Thumb'd Boy does Three Kings Horses hold,
4. The Stone Cross sinks as NIXON had foretold.

Engraved by J. G. Thompson

N I X O N ' s
Cheshire Prophecy.

PUBLISHED FROM
Lady COWPER's Correct Copy,
In the Reign of Queen ANNE ;
With HISTORICAL and POLITICAL
R E M A R K S :
And several INSTANCES, wherein
it is fulfilled.

Also his L I F E.

By JOHN OLDMIXON, Esq.

A NEW EDITION;

With a beautiful Frontispiece elegantly engraved.

NIXON unfolds the dark Decrees of Fate,
Foretels our second GEORGE shall make us great ;
That, shortly too, the Period will come,
Wherein *Abithophel* will meet his Doom,
That *Fleury's* doating Politics are vain,
For *Brunswick's* Arms shall conquer *France* and *Spain*.
ANGLICUS.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BARKER, Russell-Court, Drury Lane.

[Price Sixpence.]

[17907]



THIS DAY IS PUBLISHED,

Price One Shilling with an elegant Frontispiece,

T H E

THESPIAN ORACLE:

Or, A NEW

Key to Theatrical Amusements.

CONTAINING THE

NEW PROLOGUES and EPILOGUES,

With a Select COLLECTION of those celebrated for their

WIT, HUMOUR,

BEAUTY and ENTERTAINMENT:

To which is added,

A COLLECTION OF SOLILOQUIES, &c.

And an INTRODUCTION on

ORATORY and ACTING,

When on the Stage, to the admiring court,
We strove to represent ALCIDES' fury,
In all that raging heat and pomp of madness,
With which the stately SENECA adorn'd him.

Lee's Theod.

L O N D O N :

Printed and sold by J. BARKER (at the corner) opposite the Pitt-
Door, Russell-Court, Drury-Lane.

Where may be had

The NEWEST THESPIAN ORACLE,

PRICE ONLY FOUR-PEVCE,

Containing all the

New celebrated Prologues and Epilogues.

Also, BARKER'S NEW CATALOGUE of many Thou-
sands of new and secondhand Books, always on sale, at
very low Prices, as printed in the Catalogue, to be had at
the Shop, price 6d (which will be allowed to Purchasers.)



INTRODUCTION.

THIS Remarkable Prophecy has been carefully Revised, Corrected, and Improved ; also some Account given of our Author *Robert Nixon*, who was but a Kind of *Ideot*, and used to be employed in following the Plough. He had lived in some Farmers Families, and was their Drudge and their Jest. At last *Thomas Cholmondley*, of *Vale-Royal*, Esq; took him into his House, and he lived there when he composed this Prophecy, which he delivered with as much Gravity and Solemnity as if he had been an Oracle; and it was observed, that though the Fool was a Drivler, and could not

ſpeak Common Senſe when he was unſpired; yet in delivering his *Prophecies* he ſpoke plainly and ſenſibly; how truly will be ſhewn in the following Pages.

As to the Credit of this Prophecy; I dare ſay it is as well attested as any of *Noſtradamus's* or *Merlin's*, and has come to paſs as well as the beſt of Squire *Bickerſtaff's*: The latter, the greateſt Prophet of the laſt Century. Now, I would not have any Body laugh at it merely becauſe it is a Prophecy. Some ungodly People think there has been no Witch ſince the Witch of *Endor*, nor no Prophet ſince *Malachi*; but it is plain enough, that Great Men have in all Ages had Recourſe to Prophecy as well as the Vulgar. Fortune-telling is in the Low Kind of Prophecy; and yet thoſe Minor Prophets, the Fortune-tellers, have many Advocates to argue, and,
if

if you please, to prove the Truth and Importance of their Predictions. Not to give Instances out of Ancient History of the Wonders performed by *English, Scots, and Irish* Prophets; the most Modern Story furnishes us with Examples of the greatest Monarchs that have received Comfort from the Art of *Soothsaying*. I would not have all grave Persons despise the Inspirations of *Nixon*. The late *French* King gave Audience to an inspired *Farrier*, and rewarded him with an Hundred Pistoles for his propheticall Intelligence; though, by what I can learn, he did not come near our *Nixon* for Gifts.

The *Cheshire* Prophecy has so many Oddnesses in it, that I am sure the Reader will be glad to see a Thing which is as well known in that County-Palatine, as Mother *Shipton's* in *Yorkshire*. The Simplicity, the Circumstances, and History of it are so

Remarkable, that I could not help communicating it to the Public, who, I hope, will be as much delighted with it as I was myself. By the Way, this is not a Prophecy of to-day; 'tis as old as the *Powder-plot*, and the Story will make it appear, that there is as little Imposture in it as the *Jacobites* pretend there is in the *Person* it seems to have an Eye to; but whether they are both Impostors alike or not I leave it to the Reader to determine.

J. Oldmixon.

THE



T H E
P R O P H E C Y.

IN the Reign of King JAMES the *First*, there lived a Fool, whose Name was NIXON. One Day he came in from Plough out of the Field, and laying down the Things he had in his Hands, he remained a little while in the Dumps, and then with a hoarse Voice said, *Now I will PROPHECY*, Then he spoke as follows :

When a Raven shall build in a Stone-Lion's Mouth on the Top of a Church in Cheshire, then a King of England shall be driven out of his Kingdom, and never return more.

When an Eagle shall sit on the Top of the House, then an Heir shall be born to the Cholmondley's Family; and this Heir shall live to see England invaded by Foreigners, who shall proceed

proceed so far as a Town in Cheshire; but a Miller, named Peter, shall be born with two Heels on one Foot, and at that Time living in a Mill of Mr. Cholmondley's, he shall be Instrumental in delivering the Nation. The Person who then governs the Nation will be in Trouble, and sculk about: The Invading King shall be killed, laid a-cross a Horse's Back like a Calf, and led in Triumph. The Miller having been Instrumental in it, shall bring forth the Person that then governs the Kingdom, and be knighted for what he has done; and after that England shall see happy Days. A young new Set of Men of virtuous Manners shall come, who shall prosper and make a Flourishing Church for Two Hundred Years.

As a Token of the Truth of all this, a Wall of Mr. Cholmondley's shall fall: If it fall downwards, the Church shall be oppressed, and rise no more; but if upwards, next the rising Hill on the Side of it, then it shall flourish again. Under this Wall shall be found the Bones of a British King.

A Pond shall run with Blood three Days, and the Cross-Stone Pillar in the Forest sink so low into the Ground, that a Crow from the Top of it shall drink of the best Blood in England.

*A Boy shall be born with three Thumbs, and shall hold three Kings Horses, while
England*

England shall three Times be Won and Lost
in one Day.

The Original may be seen in several Families in that County, and is particularly in the Hands of Mr. *Egerton*, of *Olton*, with many other Remarkables; as, that *Pecforton* Wind-Mill should be removed to *Ludditon* Hill; that there should be so great a Slaughter of Men, that Horses saddled should run about till their Girths rotted away. But this is sufficient to prove *Nixon* as great a Prophet as *Partridge*, and we shall give other Proofs of it before we have done with him.

I know your Prophets are generally for Raw-Head and Bloody-Bones, and therefore do not mind it much; or I might add, that *Olton-Mill* shall be driven with Blood instead of Water. But these *Soothsayers* are great Butchers, and every *Hall* is with them a Slaughter-House.

Now as for Authorities to prove this Prophecy to be genuine, and how it has been hitherto accomplished, I might refer myself to the whole County of *Cheshire*, where it is in every one's Mouth, and has been so these forty Years. As much as I have of the Manuscript was sent me by a Person of Sense and Veracity, as little given to Visions as any Body. For my own Part, I build nothing on
this

this or any other Prophecy, only there is something so very odd in the Story, and so pat in the wording of it, that I cannot help giving it as I found it.

The Family of the *Cholmondleys* is very ancient in this County, and takes its Name from a Place so called near *Nantwich*; there are also *Cholmton* and *Cholmondeston*; but the Seat of that Branch of the Family, which kept our Prophet *Nixon*, is at *Vale-Royal*, on the River *Wever* in *de la Mere* Forest. It was formerly an Abbey founded by *Edward I.* and came to the *Cholmondleys* from the famous Family of the *Holcrofts*. When *Nixon* prophesied, this Family was near being extinct, the Heir having married Sir *Walter St. John's* Daughter, a Lady not esteemed very young, who notwithstanding being with Child, fell in Labour, and continued so for some Days. (During which Time an Eagle set upon the House Top, and flew away when she was delivered, which proved to be of a Son.)

A Raven is also known to have built in a Stone Lion's Mouth, in the Steeple of the Church of *Over* in the Forest of *de la Mere*. Not long before the Abdication of King *James*, the Wall spoken of fell down and fell upwards; and in removing the Rubbish, were found the Bones of a Man of more than ordinary Size. A Pond at the same Time

ran

ran with Water that had a reddish Tincture, and was never known to have done so before or since.

Headless Cross in the Forest, which in the Memory of Man was several Foot high, is now sunk within half a Foot of the Ground.

In the Parish of *Budworth*, a Boy was born about eighteen Years ago with three Thumbs; the Youth is still living there, and the Miller *Peter* lives in *Nagginshire* Mills in Expectation of fulfilling his Prophecy on the Person of *Perkin*: He hath also two Heels on one Foot, but I find he does not intend to make use of them, for he is a bold *Briton*, and a loyal Subject to King *GEORGE*, zealous for the Protestant Succession in the illustrious House of *Hanover*, has a Vote for the Knights of the Shire, and never fails to give it on the right Side; in a word, *Peter* will prate or box for the good Cause that *Nixon* has lifted him in, and if he does not do the Business, this must be said of him, that no Man will bid fairer for it; which the Lady *Egerton* was so apprehensive of, that wishing well to another Restoration, she often instigated her Husband to turn him out of the Mill; but he looked upon it as a Whimfy, and so *Peter* still continues there, in hopes of being as good a Knight as Sir *Philip* his Landlord was.

Of

Of this *Peter* I have been told that the Lady *Narcliff*, of *Chelsea*, and the Lady *St. John*, of *Battersea*, have often been heard to talk, and that they both asserted the Truth of our Prophecy and its Accomplishment, with Particulars that are more extraordinary than any I have yet mentioned. The Noise of *Nixon's* Predictions reaching the Ears of King *JAMES the First*, he would needs see this Fool, who cried and made ado that he might not go to Court; and the Reason that he gave was, *That he should be starved*. (A very whimsical Fancy of his: Courts are not Places where People use to starve in, when they once come there, whatever they did before.) The King being informed of *Nixon's* refusing to come, said he would take particular Care that he should not be starved, and ordered him to be brought up. *Nixon* cried out, *he was sent for again*, and soon after the Messenger arrived, who brought him up from *Cheshire*. How, or whether he prophesied to his Majesty, no Body can tell; but he is not the first Fool that has made a good Court Prophet. That *Nixon* might be well provided for, 'twas ordered he should be kept in the Kitchen, where he grew so troublesome in licking and picking the Meat, that the Cooks locked him up in a Hole, and the King going on a sudden from *Hampton-Court*

Court to London, they forgot the Fool in the Hurry, and he was really starved to death.

There are a great many Passages of this Fool-Prophet's Life and Sayings transmitted by Tradition from Father to Son in this County *Palatine*; as that when he lived with a Farmer, before he was taken into Mr. *Cholmondley's* Family, he goaded an Ox so cruelly, that one of the Ploughmen threatened to beat him for abusing his Master's Beast. *Nixon* said, *My Master's Beast will not be his three Days*. A Life in an Estate dropping in that Time, the Lord of the Manor took the same Ox for an Herriot. This Account, as whimsical and romantic as it is, was told to the Lady *Cowper* in the Year 1670, by Dr. *Patrick*, late Bishop of *Ely*, then Chaplain to Sir *Walter St. John*, and that Lady had the following farther Particulars, relating to this Prophecy, and the fulfilling of many Parts of it, from Mrs. *Chute*, Sister of Mrs. *Cholmondley*, of *Vale-Royal*, who affirmed,

That a Multitude of People gathering together to see the Eagle before mentioned, the Bird was frightened from her Young; that she herself was one of them, and the Cry among the People was, *Nixon's Prophecy is fulfilled, and we shall have a foreign King*. She declared, that she read over the Prophecy many Times, when her Sister was with Child of the

Heir who now enjoys the Estate. She particularly remembered that King *James* the II^d was plainly pointed at, and that it was foretold he should endeavour to subvert the Laws and Religion of this Kingdom, for which Reason they would rise and turn him out; that the Eagle of which *Nixon* prophesied perched in one of the Windows all the Time her Sister was in Labour. She said it was the biggest Bird she ever saw; that it was in a deep Snow, and that it perched on the Edge of a great bow Window, which had a large Border on the Outside, and that she and many others opened the Window to try to scare it away, but it would not stir till Mrs. *Cholmondley* was delivered; after which it took a Flight to a great Tree over-against the Room her Sister lay in, where having staid about three Days, it flew away in the Night. She affirmed farther to the Lady *Cowper*, that the falling of a Garden Wall was a Thing not to be questioned, it being in so many People's Memory: That it was foretold, that the Heir of *Vale-Royal* should live to see *England* invaded by Foreigners, and that he should fight bravely for his King and his Country: That the Miller mentioned is alive, and expects to be knighted, and is in the very Mill that is foretold: That he should kill two Invaders who would come in, the
one

one from the *West*, the other from the *North*: That he from the *North* should bring with him of all Nations, *Swedes*, *Danes*, *Germans*, and *Dutch*; and that in the Folds of his Garments he should bring Fire and Famine, Plague and Murder: That many great Battles should be fought in *England*, one upon *London-Bridge*, which would be so bloody, that People should ride in *London* Streets up to their Horses Bellies in Blood: That several other Battles should be fought up and down most Parts in *Cheshire*; and that the last that ever would be fought in *England* should be on *De la Mere Forest*: That the Heir of *Olton*, whose Name is *E-----n*, and has married Earl *Cholmondley's* Sister, should be hanged up at his own Gate.

Lastly, he foretels great Glory and Prosperity to those who stand up in Defence of their Laws and Liberties, and Ruin and Misery to those that should betray them. He says, the Year before this would happen, Bread Corn would be very dear, and that the Year following more Troubles should begin, which would last three Years; that the *first* would be Moderate, the *second* bloody, and the *third* Intolerable; that unless they were shortened, no Mortal could bear them; and that there were no Mischiefs, but what poor *England* would feel at that Time. But that

GEORGE, the Son of GEORGE, should put an End to all. That afterwards the Church should flourish, and *England* be the most glorious Nation upon Earth. The same Lady *Cowper* was not content to take these Particulars from Mrs. *Chute*, but she enquired of Sir *Thomas Aston*, of the Truth of this Prophecy; and he attested it was in great Reputation in *Cheshire*, and that the Facts were known by every one to have happened as *Nixon* said they would; adding, that the Morning before the Garden Wall fell, his Neighbour Mr. *Cholmondley* going to ride out a hunting, said, as he passed by it, *Nixon seldom fails, but now I think he will; for he foretold that this Day my Garden Wall would fall, and I think it looks as if it would stand these forty Years*: That he had not been gone a Quarter of an Hour before the Wall split, and fell upwards against the rising of the Hill, which, as *Nixon* would have it, was the Prefage of a *Flourishing Church*.

As to the Removal of *Pecferton Mill*, it was done by Sir *John Crew*, the Mill having lost its Trade there, for which he ordered it to be set upon *Ludditon Hill*; and being asked if he did it to fulfil the Prophecy, he declared *he never thought of it*. I myself have enquired of a Person who knows Mr. *Cholmondley's Pond* as well as *Rosamond's* in St. *James's Park*,

Park, and he assured me the falling of the Wall, and the Pond running Blood, as they call it, are Facts which in *Cheshire* any one would be reckoned Mad for making the least Question of them. As there are several Particulars in this *Prophecy*, which remain unfulfilled ; so when they come to pass some other Circumstances may be added, which are not Convenient to be told till they be accomplished.

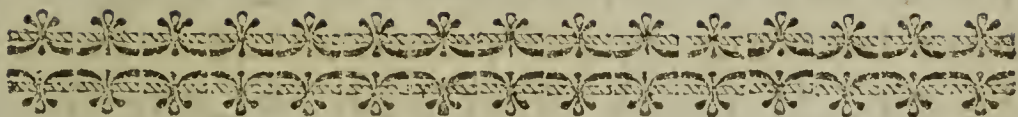
If I had a mind to look into the Antiquities of this County, I might find that *Prodigies* and *Prophecies* are no unusual Things there. *Cambden* tells us, that at *Brereton*, not many Miles from *Vale-Royal*, which gave Name to a famous, ancient, numerous, and knightly Family, there is a Thing as strange as *the perching of the Eagle*, or *the falling of the Wall*, which he says was attested to him by many Persons, and was commonly believed ; That before any Heir of this Family dies, there are seen in a Lake adjoining, the Bodies of Trees swimming upon the Water for everal Days together. He likewise adds, that near the Abbey of *St. Maurice*, in *Burgundy*, there is a Fish-pond, in which a Number of Fishes are put, equal to the Number of Monks of that Place ; and if any one of them happens to be sick, there is a Fish seen floating on the Water ; and in

Case the Fit of Sickness proves fatal to the Monk, the Fish foretels it by his own Death some Days before. This the learned *Cambden* relates in his Description of *Cheshire*, and the Opinion of the *Trees swimming in the Lake* near *Brereton* prevails all about the County to this Day, only with this Difference, that some say 'tis *one Log* that swims, and some say *many*.

Lancashire, which is not far off, has been famous for *Witches*, and I am afraid *Cheshire* is a little infected by its Neighbourhood. 'Those that will not believe our *Prophecy*, may let it alone; but if *Hope* is a good Help to *Faith*, I shall not be long among the *Incredulous*.

J. Oldmixon.





T H E

LIFE of NIXON,

T H E

CHESHIRE Prophet.

Nantwich, March 24, 1714.

S I R,

 Have read over your *Cheshire* Prophecy and must needs say, that what you have added is to be found in the *Original*, written in Doggrel Verse: I have read it over and over; and though it is longer than your Prophecy, yet I think the Substance of it is there; and I shall now give you some material Passages which will serve to make your Prophecy compleat. To these
I shall

I shall add a short Account of his Life, as I have been able to inform myself of it by old People. I could meet with but one Man who remembered the Prophet, and that was old *Woodman*, of *Copnal*.

He says, that *Nixon* was a short squab Fellow; had a great Head, and goggle Eyes; that he used to drivel as he spoke, which was very rarely, and was extremely furly. He particularly had a Spite against Children, and would run after them to beat them when they came in his Way, especially if they made Sport with him, as he said they used to do, and himself among the rest, when he was a Lad. He was at first Plough-boy to Farmer *Crowton*, of *Swanlow*, and so stubborn that they could make him do nothing without beating. They could seldom get any Thing out of him but *Yes* and *No*; and if he spoke much more, it was unintelligible; nay, he would hardly say *No* and *Yes*, unless he was pinched by *Hunger*. He had a very good Stomach; and the Report was, that he would eat up a Shoulder of Mutton at a Meal, if they would let him, and a good Luncheon of Bread and Cheese after it. The People had, it seems, a strange Reverence even for his Stupidity; and they took his Silence to be like that of an Oracle, as potentous as if he *prophefied*.

The

The first Time that he was found out to be a Prophet, was upon this Occasion. Farmer *Crowton* being one Day at Plough in a Field, near the River *Wever*, in *Swanlow* Parish, and his Boy *Nixon* following him, the Boy stopt on a sudden, dropt his Bottle and Budget which he carried to Field with him, and stood motionless with his Eyes fixed towards Heaven. Neither Words nor Blows could get him out of this Trance for the Space of an Hour. When he recovered, he took up the Things he had dropped, and followed the Plough. His Master, and the Men that were at Work in the same Field, stood by him all the while, taking him to be in a Fit; but wondered still that he stood upright, and did not fall down. He himself seemed to be insensible of any Alteration that had happened to him. But, for about a Quarter of an Hour after, he talked very rationally of several Things that had been done some Time before, and dropt Expressions of others that were to be done; which presently made his Master, and those that were with him, conclude that *Nixon's* Dullness had something sacred in it; and that his Words were Oracles, especially when some little Things he foretold fell out according to his Prediction. It was with this Farmer that he lived when he

Prophefied

Prophesied of his Master's Ox, as is mention-
ed in his *Prophecy*.

I must correct some Errors that you have been led into by the imperfect Copies of his *Prophecy*; as that about *the Falling of the Wall*, which some zealous People have applied to the Church; whereas, in Truth, it has a literal Reference to the *State* only. *Woodman* said, the common Tradition has been, That *when the Wall belonging to Vale-Royal House fell down, it was to denote some remarkable Change in the Government: That if it was a serene Day, and the Wall fell inward, it signified an advantageous and happy Change; but if it were a stormy Day, and fell outward, and any of the Stones fell into the Brook, it signified the direct contrary.* To this he added, that the *Cholmondley Family*, whose Seat it was, kept several *Workmen* in yearly Pay to support the Wall, and every Month to inspect it all round: That it was buttressed both within and without; and the Week before it fell, the *Workmen* gave in their Report, that it was so strong it might reasonably last an Hundred Years, without any Repairs.

This, I assure you, is not only what the old Man told me, but what I have heard from several others, and can get well attested, if it is thought proper: As also the Parti-
culars

culars of *the Falling of the Wall*, which are these :

“ Upon the fourth of August, 1688, about
 “ 11 o’Clock in the Forenoon, being a calm
 “ and clear Day, without the least Breath of
 “ Wind, that Wall fell flat inwards all at
 “ once, and not so much as one single Stone
 “ fell outwards.”

This happening so little a while before the *Revolution*, it was taken Notice of as an Accident which was very much to our Advantage: And as there was a greater Rising for the Prince of *Orange* in *Cheshire*, than in any other County in *England*, why may we not imagine that *Nixon’s* Prophecy contributed very much to it? The Objection to this may be, that the Owner of the House, *Thomas Cholmondley, Esq;* was a *Jacobite*; and it is not likely that any Thing about him could bode well to the *Revolution*. But his being a *Jacobite* gives the greater Authority to the Prediction, and the fulfilling of it. For it is not likely that one, who was an Enemy to the Prince of *Orange*, should let a Miracle be wrought in his House in Favour of the happy Change he soon after accomplished. I should not have made this Digression, had not some silly People almost as stupid as *Nixon*, but by no Means so well gifted in Prophecy, given out,
 that

that the *Falling of the Wall* denoted the *rising of the Pretender* ; and this too just as he was running away from *Scotland*.

I cannot help observing to you upon this Occasion, that some of us in this County were strangely spirited by your *Prophecy*. When the Rebels advanced to *Preston*, we were told that they intended to march through our County into *Flintshire* and *Denbighshire* ; if they had, their Rout must have been through *De la Mere Forest*, where *Nixon* lived and *Prophesied* ; and the Miller *Peter*, with his Countrymen, were resolved to have given them such a Reception, as would have given very great *Credit* to your Prophecy, which is abused when it has any Interpretation applied to it that has an Eye to *Popery* and *Slavery* : For as great a Fool as *Nixon* was, he was not so stupid as our modern *Zealots*, nor ever dropt a Word against the *Protestant Religion*.

To return to old *Woodman* : He informed me further, that after it was known what a Prophet Farmer *Crowton* had in his Family, Mr. *Cholmondley* sent for the Fellow, and kept him at his House, giving him in Charge to his Steward, whom he ordered to try whether he could make any Thing of him, and teach him to read. But *Nixon's* Stupidity increased upon him, the more the Steward endeavoured

endeavoured to improve him ; and the most he could do with him, was to make him hold his *Goad* right, and drive *Oxen* at Plough. As he was once in the Field with the rest of Mr. *Cholmondley's* Servants, he let fall his *Goad* on a sudden, as he had dropt his Budget and Bottle formerly. He stood motionless after the same Manner, with his Eyes fixt towards Heaven. The Servants talked to him, and beat him to get to his Work, and all to no Purpose. He remained in a Sort of Trance for the Space of an Hour ; and then recovering, he took up his *Goad*, and went on with his Business, as though nothing had befallen him. One of Mr. *Cholmondley's* Men asked him, *What ailed him? And why he stood there so long?* To whom Nixon replied, *That he had seen those Things which he could not tell them, and which Man never saw before.* He then discoursed to the Servants, that crowded about him, for near two Hours, and spoke as reasonably as the best of them could have done, without any Manner of Hesitation : in this Discourse

He foretold the Civil Wars, the Death of King Charles I. the Restoration of King Charles II. the Abdication of King James II. the Revolution and glorious War with France, and the flourishing State of this Kingdom afterwards: Adding, these Things will as cer-
C
tainly

tainly happen, as that I shall be sent for by the King, and starved to death. When he had finished his Speech, he returned to his natural Dulness and Silence; and unless he had been in one of his Trances, he was always dull and mute; but while he was uttering his Prophecies, he spoke clearly, and with an Air of Assurance, that they would be accomplished. The Servants, as soon as they came home, told their Master of this Prodigy; and Mr. *Cholmondley* ordered them to write down as much of it as they could remember, which they did, and it is preserved in that Family to this Day; together with some less material Hints, as hard Weather, and Scarcity of Provisions, &c. which would certainly happen. That Family has always locked it up as a Treasure, and whatever Pains I have taken to procure a Copy of it, I could never succeed, and despair now of getting it. Mr. *Egerton*, of *Olton*, who is nearly related to the *Cholmondley* Family, has a Copy of it also, but he will not part with it. Both of those Families do lay great stress on *Nixon's* Predictions; and, I must tell you, they are two of the most ancient and honourable Families in our County.

- You have mentioned *Nixon's* being sent for to Court by King *James* the First. *Woodman* says it was thus; when he came to Court,
that

that King gave him in Charge to one of his Officers, commanding him to keep him in close Confinement, and to make strict Observations on his Behaviour, that he might be assured there was nothing of Imposture in him. This Gentleman kept *Nixon* locked up, and going in a Hurry with the King to *Theobalds*, he forgot to take Care of him, and leave him Provisions till his Return; by which Means he was starved to Death. It must be observed that *Nixon* could not speak, except it was immediately after he was come out of his Trance, and never could be brought to pronounce a sensible Word, more than *Aye* or *No* as hath been said, unless when he was pronouncing his Oracles.

There happened something with respect to *Nixon*, and his going to Court, like what I met with in the Pamphlet you sent me, called the *Drummer of Tedworth*. For as that *Drummer* left beating, when King *Charles's* Courtiers came to be upon the Watch with him, and would not satisfy their Curiosity; so our Clown of a Prophet, after he came to Court, was entirely dumb, and pronounced no more Prophecies. It is said he was not long there before he was starved.

Nixon was very grateful to his Master *Cholmondley*; he prophesied that the Heir to be born to the Family, threescore and ten Years

after, should be endowed with very eminent Qualifications, and arrive at greater Honours than any of his Ancestors had done: That he should distinguish himself by his Loyalty and Services to the King then reigning; and that, after the happy Settlement which would succeed the Struggle, the Peace would be lasting, with a continued Series of Honours and Glory to the Nation. This Child, said Nixon, shall be known by the Appearance of an Eagle at the Time of his Birth, with the Circumstances mentioned in your Prophecy. A long Time before the Eagle appeared, the Country People used to look out for it; and as often as the Lady of Vale-Royal lay-in, they would cry, where is the Eagle? When will Nixon's Heir be born? The Appearance of the Eagle was about five and twenty Years ago: The Lady who lay-in was Aunt to Henry St. John, late Lord Bolingbroke; when she was in Labour, she heard great Shoutings and Acclamations of Joy; and enquiring the Reason, was told, The Eagle so long talked of is come. Upon which her Sister and Mr. J. S. who are both living, went to the Window, saw the Eagle sitting on the Bough, and looked at it above a Quarter of an Hour. It was seen also by several Thousands of People,

and

and is such a Confirmation of *Nixon's* Prophecy, that the Truth of it is no where doubted of in this County by either gentle or simple. There is some Variation in the original Prophecy from what is mentioned in your Prophecy about the Competitors for the Kingdom; the *Germans, Dutch, and Danes* are to conquer *those that bring Fire and Famine, Plague and Murder in the Folds of their Garment*; and we can understand none but the *French* by such *bloody Invaders*; none but *French Papists* would bring such Destructions among Protestants. As for the *Miller Peter*, he was born about the Time of the Revolution; and *Nixon* prophesied that he should have two Heels on one Foot, and be knighted; the two Heels he hath already, but the *Spurs* are not come to his Lot. Yet, however, the Country People in his Neighbourhood have made a Knight of him these many Years, and honest *Peter*, the Miller, is *Sir Peter* in every one's Mouth.

I must here correct an Error of Mr. *Addison*, in his *Freeholder*, who has not read your *Prophecy* with that Attention and Regard which a Thing of such Importance deserves; for he gives the Miller *Two Thumbs*, whereas *Nixon* gives him

Two Heels. A Mistake in the Text of a Prophecy is of a very dangerous Consequence; and I doubt not, but upon this Notice, in future Editions, this Error will be corrected, and Justice done to honest *Peter the Miller.*

I am, Sir, Yours,

W. E.

F I N I S.

A great Choice of CHILDREN's BOOKS
for 1784.

A CATALOGUE of Entertaining BOOKS for Children, each adorned with Copper-Plates and other Cuts, (bound and gilt) which are daily selling, Wholesale and Retail, printed for, and sold by H. TURPIN, Bookseller and Stationer, N^o. 104, *St. John's-Street, West-Smithfield, London*; and by all Booksellers, Stationers, School-Masters, Toy-Shops, &c. in Town and Country; where Catalogues may be had *gratis*.

				<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1	HISTORY of Fanny Fairchild, and Charlotte Jones	-	-	0	1
2	History of Tommy Sugar Plumb	-	-	0	1
3	History of Billy and Polly Friendly	-	-	0	1
4	History of Polly Cherry	-	-	0	1
5	History of Simon Suck Egg	-	-	0	1
6	Oriental Stories; or Eastern Tales	-	-	0	1